

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus provides information for use in still image and video image processing, the information including scene and camera information and information obtained by sampling pixels or pixel regions during image formation. The information is referred to as meta-data. The meta-data regarding the camera and the scene is obtained by obtaining camera and sensor array parameters, generally prior to image acquisition. The meta-data obtained during the image formation obtained by sampling the pixels or pixel regions may include one or more masks marking regions of the image. The masks may identify blur in the image, under and/or overexposure in the image, and events occurring over the course of the image. Blur is detected by sensing a change in pixel or pixel regions signal build up rate during the image acquisition. Under or over exposure is determined by pixels being below or above, respectively low and high thresholds. An event time mask is generated by sensing a sampling time during the image acquisition at which an event is sensed. Data on these masks is output with the image data for use in post image acquisition processing.